

Please REPLACE the present Abstract with the following in order to comply with 37 CFR 1.72:

**ABSTRACT**

A web browser script is encrypted to prevent an unauthorized user from inspecting or reverse engineering the script. A script author uses an encryption program to encrypt the script, modify a web page to refer to the encrypted script, and create a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script. The encrypted script is publicly available on the Internet. A user uses a web browser to request from a web server a web page that includes a reference to the encrypted script. The web browser displays the contents of the web page by interpreting a hypertext markup language ("HTML") tags embedded in the web page. The tags identify a uniform resource locators for the decryption program and encrypted script. The runtime environment of the client computer applies the decryption program to the encrypted script to produce the script. The runtime environment transfers the script to the web browser for execution.